



CLEAN WATER ACTION

MICHIGAN

May 15, 2012

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Energy and Technology Committee,

On behalf of Clean Water Action's over 250,000 Michigan members, I urge you to oppose House Bills 4265 and 4266.

These bills create a risky exemption to the Yard Waste Ban under the guise of methane gas energy production. Whereas we strongly support clean energy and growing green jobs in the state, these bills will not significantly increase the production of energy, but will instead take up our valuable landfill space and will kill Michigan jobs in the composting business.

Some of the specific problems with allowing exemptions to the Yard Waste Ban are:

- Yard waste is currently composted-- creating nutrient-filled soil and good Michigan jobs. If the Yard Waste Ban is lifted, the valuable compost resources would dwindle and the jobs created by recycling and composting yard waste would be devastated and families would lose their businesses.
- Clean Water Action has a long history of working to limit the trash entering Michigan's landfills. Yard waste is a benign substance and it is not economical to place yard waste in a landfill with expensive pollution control protections. If yard waste was again allowed to take up space in Michigan's overfilled waste disposal sites, it would create the need for new landfills in the state.
- The Yard Waste Ban has created some limits on out-of-state and Canadian trash since Michigan landfills are blocked from taking trash from areas that comingle yard clippings with other waste. If these bills pass, Michigan would no longer have a way to block that trash from coming into our already crowded landfills, provided they are designed to capture methane.
- The amount of landfill methane that would be created by yard waste, if the ban was lifted, would be insignificant. There are much more efficient ways to capture the methane from yard waste, such as in-vessel composting facilities.

For these and other reasons, we urge you to vote no on HBs 4265 and 4266.

Sincerely,

Susan Harley
Michigan Policy Director

